BATMAN: DARK PATTERNS
13+ TEEN
5
BATMAN
DARK PATTERNS
WATTERS
SHERMAN
FARRELL
THE VOICE OF THE TOWER PART TWO

THE MAN OF STEEL'S GREATEST YEAR BEGINS HERE!
SUMMER OF
SUPERMAN
SPECIAL #1
ALL IN
A 48-PAGE ONE-SHOT ON SALE IN APRIL
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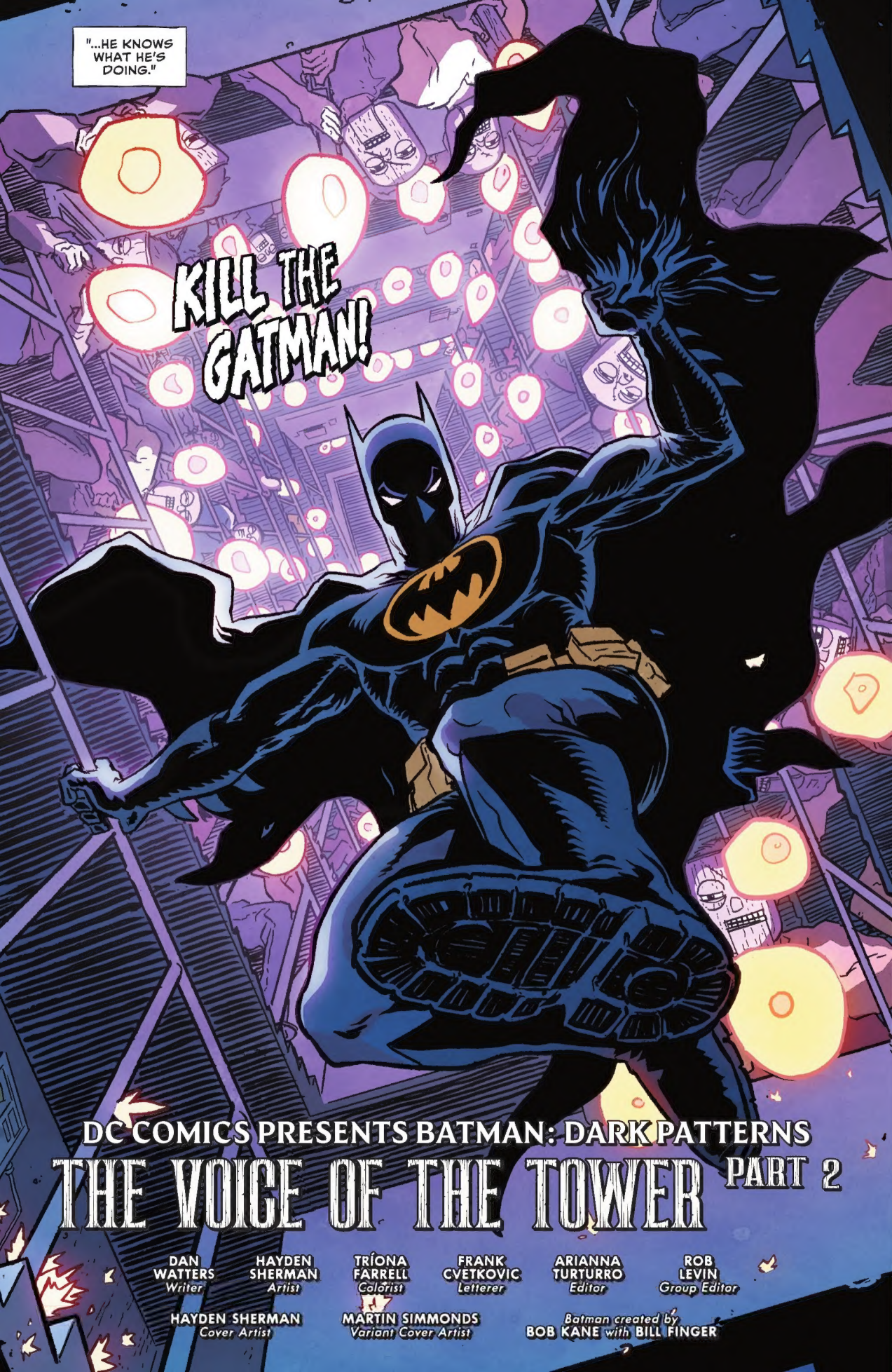
MARK WAID, DAN SLOTT, JOSHUA WILLIAMSON, AND JORGE JIMÉNEZ
JOIN FORCES FOR A MUST-READ STORY DEFINING SUPERMAN'S PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE!

A GAT! HE'S DRESSED AS A DAMNED GAT!
WHY CAN'T I HIT YOU?!
BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT A MARKSMAN, WESKER.
YOU'RE A MANIAC WITH A PUPPET.
GET OFF ME, GAT-FREAK!
NO! SCARFACE!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO THE BOSS?!
I'LL RETURN, GATMAN...

"I'LL RETURN, GETTER THAN EVER!"
AFTER BATMAN BROUGHT HIM IN, ARNOLD WESKER ATTRIBUTED ALL HIS CRIMES TO HIS VENTRILOQUIST DUMMY.
HE CONVINCED HIS PSYCHIATRISTS THE "SCARFACE" SIDE OF HIS PERSONALITY WAS ENTIRELY ERASED WHEN THE DOLL WAS DESTROYED.
HE RECEIVED EARLY RELEASE FROM ARKHAM SIX MONTHS AGO.
FURTHER PROOF THAT ARKHAM PSYCHIATRY REPORTS ARE BEST UTILIZED AS TOILET PAPER.
WHAT ARE OUR ORDERS, COMMISSIONER GORDON?
"OFFICER PRYCE IS STILL BEING HELD INSIDE...
"...THE HOSTAGE TAKERS HAVE SIGNIFICANT FIREPOWER, AND THE HIGH GROUND...
...ANY ATTEMPT AT A FRONTAL ASSAULT IS GOING TO RESULT IN A BLOODY SHOOT-OUT, AND WILL ALL BUT GUARANTEE THEY EXECUTE THE HOSTAGE.
SO WHAT? JUST SIT ON OUR ASSES AND WAIT?
THE BATMAN'S INSIDE...



DC COMICS PRESENTS BATMAN: DARK PATTERNS

THE VOICE OF THE TOWER PART 2

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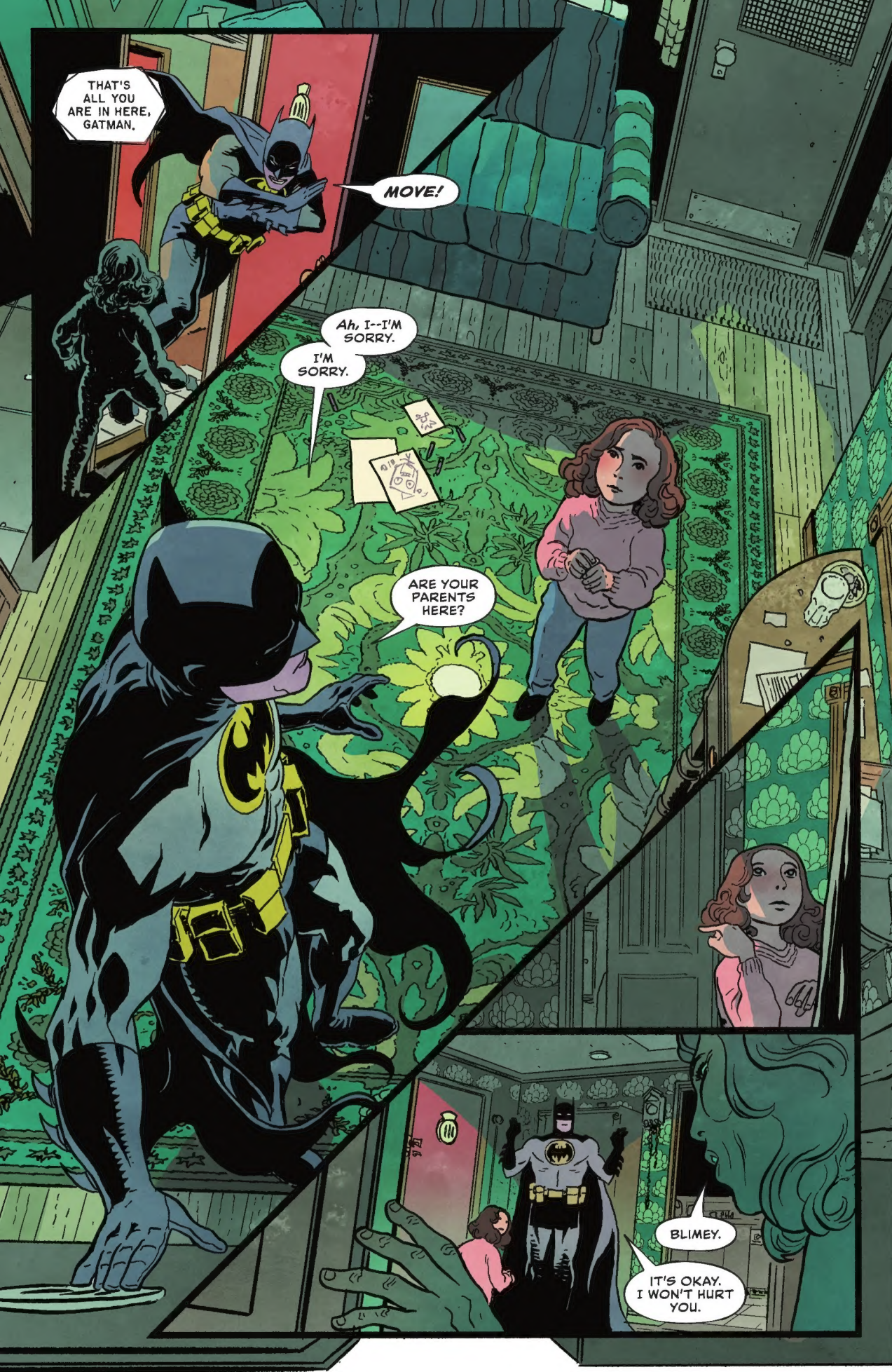
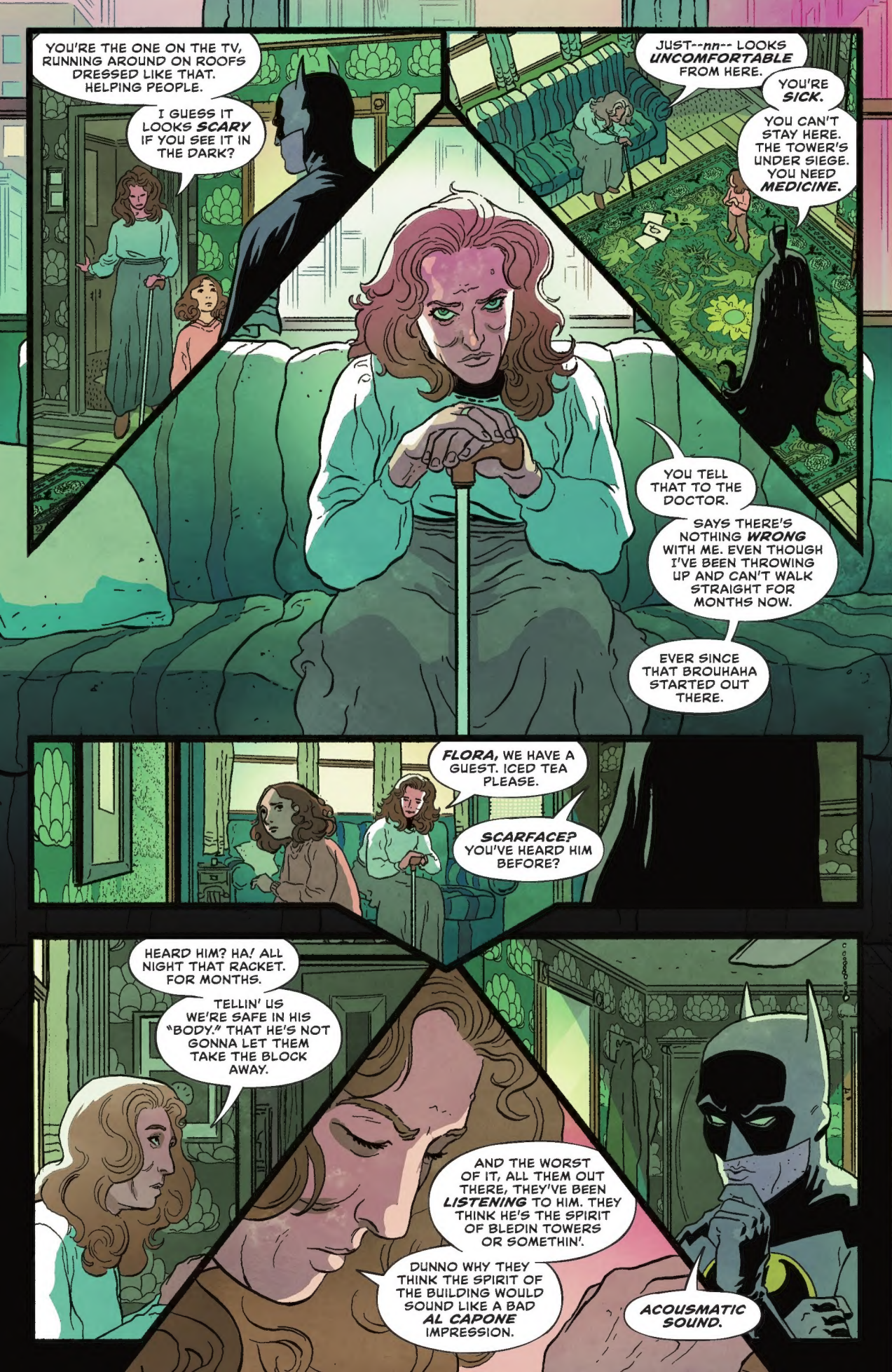
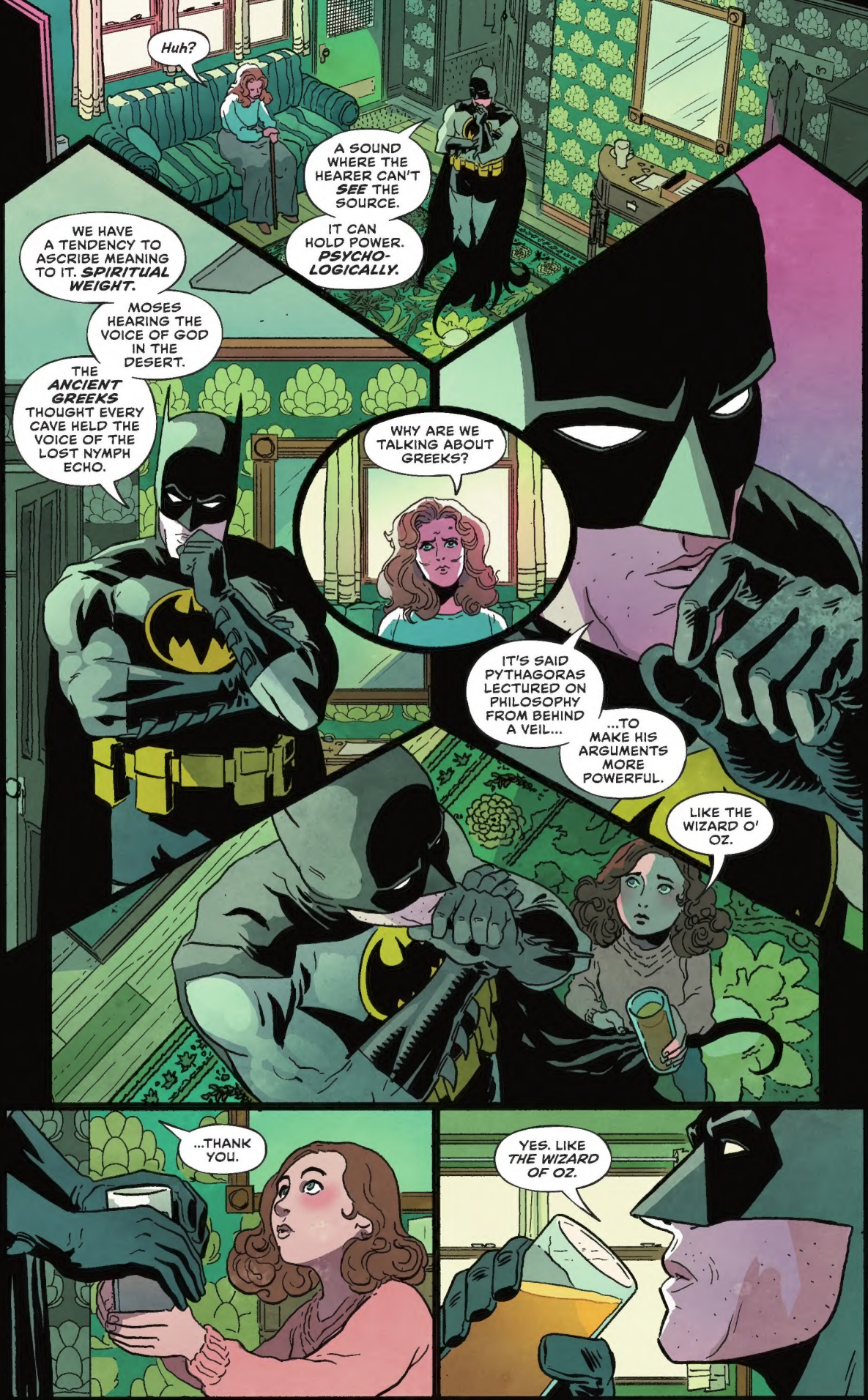
YOU THINK YOU CAN *HIDE* FROM *ME, GATMAN?*
YOU'RE INSIDE MY *GODY.*
YOU'VE *INVADED ME* LIKE A *CANCER CELL.*
THE KIND THE GODY DEALS WITH *EVERY* DAY.
IT FINDS THEM AND *DESTROYS* THEM.


THAT'S ALL YOU ARE IN HERE, GATMAN.
MOVE!
Ah, I--I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY.
ARE YOUR PARENTS HERE?
BLIMEY.
IT'S OKAY. I WON'T HURT YOU.


YOU'RE THE ONE ON THE TV, RUNNING AROUND ON ROOFS DRESSED LIKE THAT. HELPING PEOPLE.
I GUESS IT LOOKS SCARY IF YOU SEE IT IN THE DARK?
JUST--nn-- LOOKS UNCOMFORTABLE FROM HERE.
YOU'RE SICK.
YOU CAN'T STAY HERE. THE TOWER'S UNDER SIEGE. YOU NEED MEDICINE.
YOU TELL THAT TO THE DOCTOR.
SAYS THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH ME. EVEN THOUGH I'VE BEEN THROWING UP AND CAN'T WALK STRAIGHT FOR MONTHS NOW.
EVER SINCE THAT BROUHAHA STARTED OUT THERE.
FLORA, WE HAVE A GUEST. ICED TEA PLEASE.
SCARFACE? YOU'VE HEARD HIM BEFORE?
HEARD HIM? HA! ALL NIGHT THAT RACKET. FOR MONTHS.
TELLIN' US WE'RE SAFE IN HIS "BODY." THAT HE'S NOT GONNA LET THEM TAKE THE BLOCK AWAY.
AND THE WORST OF IT, ALL THEM OUT THERE, THEY'VE BEEN LISTENING TO HIM. THEY THINK HE'S THE SPIRIT OF BLEDIN TOWERS OR SOMETHIN'.
DUNNO WHY THEY THINK THE SPIRIT OF THE BUILDING WOULD SOUND LIKE A BAD AL CAPONE IMPRESSION.
ACOUSMATIC SOUND.


Huh?
A SOUND WHERE THE HEARER CAN'T *SEE* THE SOURCE.
IT CAN HOLD POWER. *PSYCHO-LOGICALLY.*
WE HAVE A TENDENCY TO ASCRIBE MEANING TO IT. *SPIRITUAL WEIGHT.*
MOSES HEARING THE VOICE OF GOD IN THE DESERT.
THE *ANCIENT GREEKS* THOUGHT EVERY CAVE HELD THE VOICE OF THE LOST NYMPH ECHO.
WHY ARE WE TALKING ABOUT GREEKS?
IT'S SAID PYTHAGORAS LECTURED ON PHILOSOPHY FROM BEHIND A VEIL...
...TO MAKE HIS ARGUMENTS MORE POWERFUL.
LIKE THE WIZARD O' OZ.
...THANK YOU.
YES. LIKE *THE WIZARD OF OZ.*

RICKSON? *RICKSON*, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
nnn... MICHELLE?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?! I TOLD YOU TO STAY PUT!
I'M SORRY, RICKSON! I HEARD YOU MIGHT BE HURT...
OFF ME!
GET BACK TO THE APARTMENT, IDIOT.
ALL YOU'RE MEANT TO BE DOING IS GUARDING THE HOSTAGE, AND YOU CAN'T EVEN GET *THAT* RIGHT.
WHAT ARE YOU ALL STANDING AROUND FOR?
THE BOSS TOLD YOU TO FIND BATMAN, DIDN'T HE?!
SO WE'RE GONNA KNOCK ON EVERY DOOR!

THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THIS TOWER ARE ALREADY UNDER EXTREME STRESS.
THOSE URBAN MYTHS-- BELIEVING THE VOICES OF THOSE WHO'VE LIVED AND DIED HERE STILL ECHO DOWN THE HALLS--
--SCARED THEY'RE GOING TO LOSE THEIR HISTORIES.
THEN A NEW VOICE ARRIVES, LOUD AS THUNDER. TELLING THEM IT WILL PROTECT THEM IF THEY DO WHAT IT SAYS.
ARNOLD WESKER FOUND THIS PLACE. A MELTING POT OF DESPERATION AND JUST ENOUGH BELIEF TO BUY INTO HIS SCARFACE DELUSION.
THEY'RE NOT URBAN MYTHS.
I'VE HEARD MY DAD GROUCHING DOWN THESE HALLS ALMOST EVERY THANKSGIVING THAT I'M STILL DRYING OUT THE TURKEY.
TRUST ME, I AIN'T HEARING IT 'CAUSE I WANT TO.
AND IF YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT THAT, WHAT IF YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT THE REST OF IT?
KNOK KNOK
THEY'RE LOOKING FOR YOU, AIN' THEY?
I THINK IT MIGHT BE TIME FOR YOU TO GO. WINDOW MIGHT BE BEST.

GORDON.
BATMAN! WHAT'S GOING ON? ARNOLD WESKER?
HE'S TAKEN OVER THE ENTIRE BUILDING...GOT ITS RESIDENTS HANGING ON HIS EVERY WORD.
WE HAVE TO REGROUP. YOU CAN'T FIGHT AN ENTIRE BUILDING OF PEOPLE.
I WON'T HAVE TO.
IF WESKER THINKS THE BUILDING IS SCARFACE--AND THAT HE'S THE ONE THINKING FOR HIS BOSS--THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE IT MAKES SENSE FOR HIM TO BE.
WESKER'S GOT TO BE IN THE BRAIN. I MAKE THAT THE TWELFTH FLOOR.
I'M GOING IN TO LOBOTOMIZE SCARFACE.

Hnn!
HE'S HERE!
BATMAN'S CLIMBING UP THE BOSS'S FACE!
DAMN IT.
Oof!

RATATATAT
TAT
KRESH
Hgh!
Hff.
WHICH FLOOR IS THIS?

904
BOSS! BOSS, HE'S HERE ON THE NINTH FLOOR!
NINTH.

OKAY. THREE TO GO.
YOU THINK SMOKE WILL AFFECT *ME*, GATMAN?
I'VE GEEN SMOKING THE *FINEST CUGAN CIGARS* SINCE GEFORE YOU WERE *GORN!*
WELL. THIS IS ***WHITE PHOSPHORUS.***
PYROPHORIC. IT ***BURNS*** THE ***AIR.***
?!

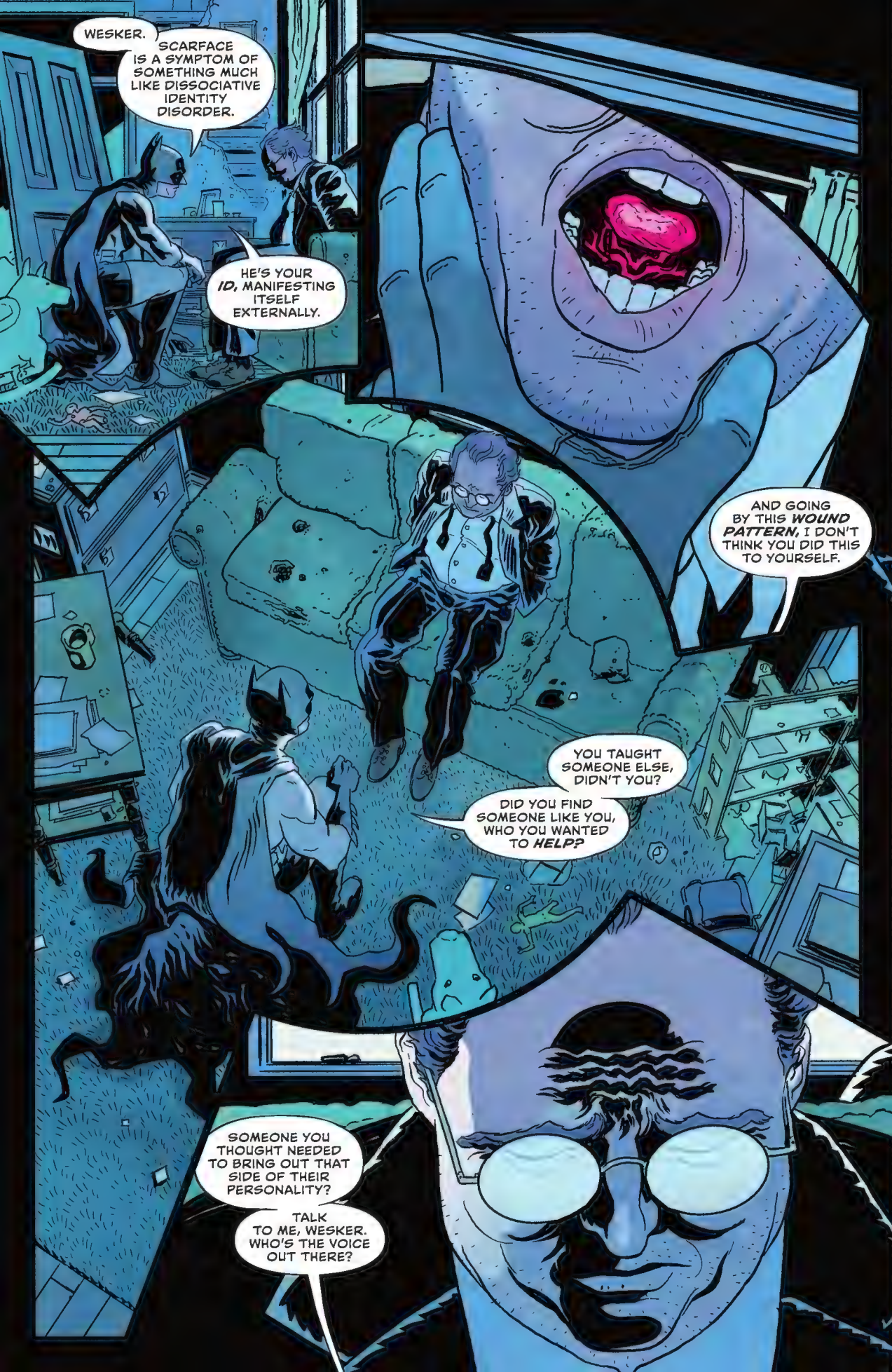
AND I FIGURE SOME OF THE FIRE ALARMS IN THIS BUILDING MUST STILL WORK...
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? KILL
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BE
TENTH.

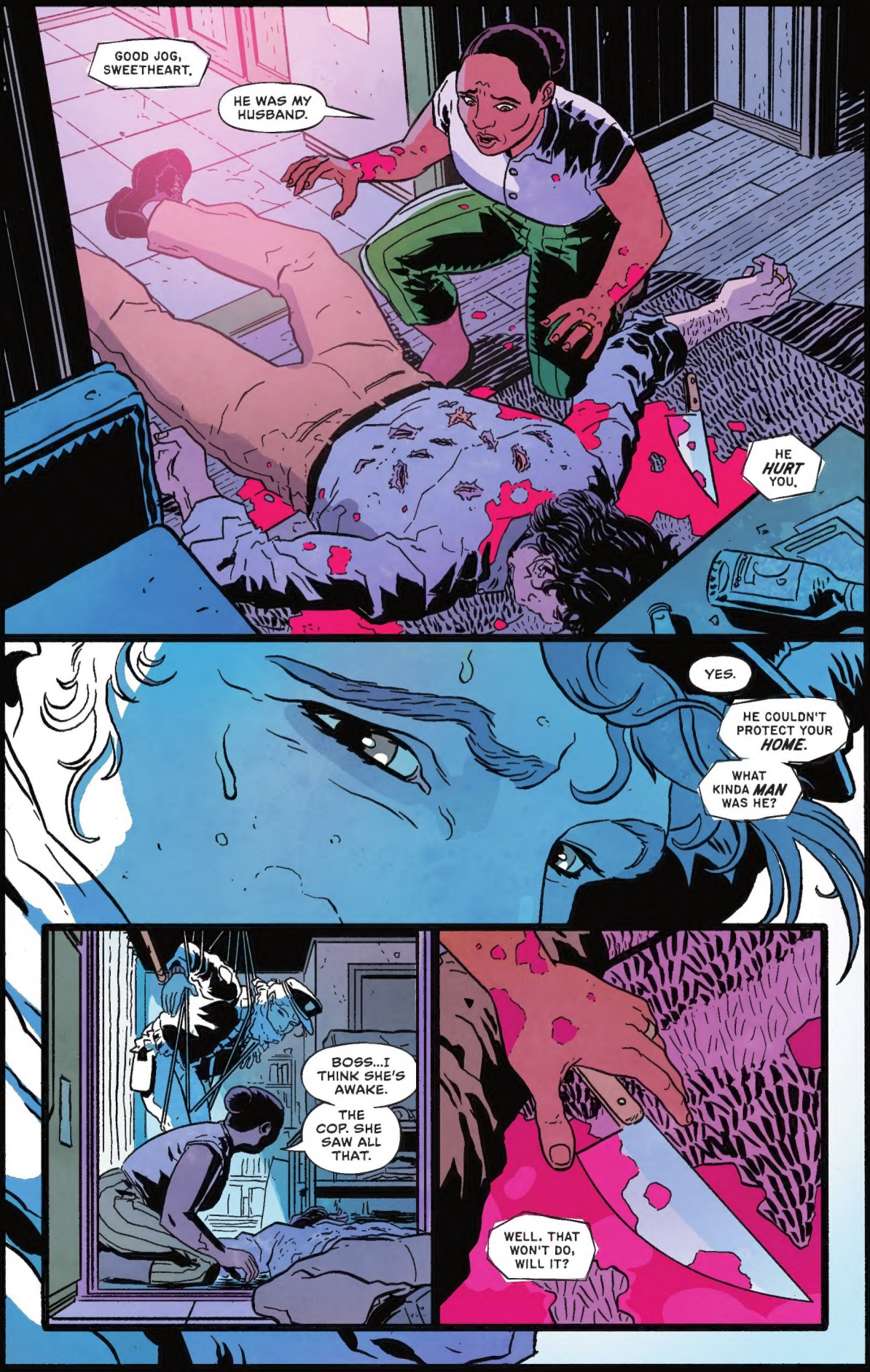
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
BAM
POW
WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN THERE?
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
BOSS?! I CAN'T HEAR YOU!
ELEVENTH.

TWELFTH FLOOR.
WESKER.
PRISON. NOW.
Th-- th--

--thunk guuud.
YOUR TONGUE.
SOMEONE CUT OUT YOUR TONGUE.
WHO DID THIS TO YOU, WESKER?
Scuurfashe.

Kff-kff-kff
RICKSON?
FOR HELL'S SAKE, LET ME IN.
THE BAT'S CAUSING CHAOS OUT THERE. SET OFF THE ALARMS SO WE CAN'T HEAR THE BOSS.
YOU JUST AIN'T GEEN LISTENING, RICKSON.
BOSS?!
AND YOU'VE OUTLIVED YOUR USEFULNESS.
Scarface... please...
DON'T GE SCARED, SWEETHEART.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, BOSS?
JUST AS WE DISCUSSED.


WESKER.
SCARFACE IS A SYMPTOM OF SOMETHING MUCH LIKE DISSOCIATIVE IDENTITY DISORDER.
HE'S YOUR ID, MANIFESTING ITSELF EXTERNALLY.
AND GOING BY THIS WOUND PATTERN, I DON'T THINK YOU DID THIS TO YOURSELF.
YOU TAUGHT SOMEONE ELSE, DIDN'T YOU?
DID YOU FIND SOMEONE LIKE YOU, WHO YOU WANTED TO HELP?
SOMEONE YOU THOUGHT NEEDED TO BRING OUT THAT SIDE OF THEIR PERSONALITY?
TALK TO ME, WESKER. WHO'S THE VOICE OUT THERE?


GOOD JOG, SWEETHEART.
HE WAS MY HUSBAND.
HE *HURT* YOU.
YES.
HE COULDN'T PROTECT YOUR *HOME*.
WHAT KINDA *MAN* WAS HE?
BOSS...I THINK SHE'S AWAKE.
THE COP. SHE SAW ALL THAT.
WELL. THAT WON'T DO, WILL IT?

WE CAN'T HAVE NO WITNESSES, GAGY.
TO BE CONTINUED...

DEATHSTROKE'S BACK...FROM THE DEAD!

TITANS #22

WRITTEN BY
JOHN LAYMAN

ART BY
DANIEL BAYLISS

COVER BY PETE WOODS

ALL IN

THE TITANS' MOST DANGEROUS ENEMY RETURNS IN APRIL

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

SUMMER OF SUPERMAN SPECIAL #1

A CONVERSATION WITH MARK WAID AND DAN SLOTT

It's a great time to be a Superman fan. The long-awaited *Superman* feature film written and directed by James Gunn is out July 11 from Warner Bros. Pictures, and DC gets the celebration going on the publishing side with April's *Summer of Superman Special*—co-written by Joshua Williamson, Mark Waid, and Dan Slott and drawn by Jorge Jiménez.

Following the *Summer of Superman Special* one-shot, Joshua Williamson and Dan Mora take their era-defining run on *Superman* to unexpected territory, while Slott teams with Rafael Albuquerque for the new series *Superman Unlimited,* chronicling the Man of Steel's high-stakes present-day adventures, and Waid joins *Action Comics* alongside artist Skylar Patridge to explore Clark Kent's days as Superboy in Smallville in a whole new light. Here's more from Waid and Slott on what they have planned.

Mark Waid: The *Summer of Superman Special* is a look at Superman past, present, and future. I start the book with Clark as a 15-year-old boy, learning to be a superhero for the first time. What is that like, learning to use your powers at that age? What kind of challenges are you facing? We're bringing Smallville a little more up to date—it still has that rustic feel to it, but farms don't look like that anymore.

Dan Slott: Your section also has one of the greatest stars of the summer.

Waid: Krypto! I have been a Krypto booster my entire life, and to see the rest of the world finally understand what I love about Krypto—I'm so thrilled.

Slott: My section has Superman dealing with the present. It's the wedding of Lana Lang and John Henry Irons.

Through all three parts, including Josh's, there's some time shenanigans going on, and there's some fisticuffs. There's action. It's so much fun.

Waid: Dan, what is it you enjoy most about writing Superman?

Slott: The thing I like most about Superman, more than any other superhero, is there's the fantasy element that he can fly, he has so many powers—but the greater fantasy element is that he can do all these things, yet he's here for us. You feel good writing about Superman.

There's a sequence in *Superman Unlimited* #1 where it's not about someone believing in Superman—you find out how powerful it is that Superman believes in you.

Waid: I have always said that the gods get their powers because they encourage us to believe in them. Superman gets his powers by believing in us.

DON'T MISS
SUMMER OF SUPERMAN SPECIAL
ON SALE IN APRIL!

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